

## COMMERCIAL FISHING IN OREGON

### Landings and value increase in 2000

Oregon's 2000 commercial fish landings of 263.9 million pounds (round weight) were up 6 percent from 1999. The \$79.1 million value of the catch was up nearly 16 percent from last year's \$68.3 million value due to increased landings values for salmon, crab, shrimp, tuna and groundfish.

Two groups of species, crab and groundfish, decreased in poundage. The 11.2 million pounds of crab landed, is 9 percent less than last year's 12.3 million pounds. Groundfish (including Pacific Whiting) landings were down by 7 percent from last year with 192 million pounds.

Salmon landings and values doubled in 2000 compared to 1999. Groundfish landed value increased from \$28.7 million to \$31.0 million in spite of the reduction in poundage, because of increases in prices received for many species. Tuna landings and values increased by 92 percent and 82 percent respectively to return to levels observed in 1996-1998.

Clatsop County retained its ranking over Lincoln County this year for Oregon's leading county in the value of fish landed and processed in Oregon. With ports on the Columbia River and at Astoria, Clatsop County earned 36 percent of the state's total ex-vessel value. Lincoln County accounted for 31 percent of the state's harvest level revenue covering the ports in Depoe Bay and Newport. Clatsop County value increased 19 percent over 1998, while Lincoln County income increased 26 percent. Coos County harvest value increased by 12 percent. Curry County values decreased by 15 percent.

### Commercial species harvested

#### Groundfish

Groundfish, at 192.1 million pounds, represented 73 percent of the state total poundage. The value of groundfish was 39 percent of the total harvest value of the 2000 commercial seafood landed in Oregon. Groundfish is a collective name given to about 80 species of fish generally possessing white flesh residing in the middle depths of the ocean, on ocean bottoms, and around reefs and offshore rocks. Overall groundfish landings declined by nearly 8 percent in 2000 from 1999. However, groundfish value increased 8 percent to \$31.0 million for 2000 because of higher prices received for many species. Included in the groundfish sector are flatfish, rockfish and other groundfish such as Pacific whiting and ling cod. Whiting continue to represent the largest segment (about 79 percent) of groundfish pounds landed. Since late 1990, only U.S. vessels have harvested this species. Oregon landings of whiting are expected to continue to be the largest component of groundfish landings. Whiting is the major constituent of the surimi (a highly refined form of minced fish meat used for a variety of analog fish products, such as imitation crab) that is shipped primarily to Asian markets. Whiting prices received by harvesters are relatively low, so the ex-vessel value of whiting is only about 20 percent of the groundfish total.

#### Pink Shrimp

Pink shrimp landings increased 25 percent from 1999 with 25.5 million pounds. Their total value of 10.2 million dollars was only a slight increase from last year's 9.6 million dollars because of lower prices.

#### Salmon

In 2000 Oregon's salmon landings and values were about double the low 1999 levels, but still remained substantially below levels experienced prior to the early 1990's. Significant harvest restrictions have been in place since 1994 to protect or enhance existing stocks of salmon, especially Coho. The total ex-vessel value of the 2000 salmon harvest was \$4.0 million, compared to \$2.0 million in 1999. Salmon landings increased to 3.1 million pounds compared to the 1999 level of 1.6 million pounds, which was the lowest since 1994.

#### Dungeness Crab

Dungeness crab landings for calendar year 2000 decreased by 9 percent from 1999. In calendar 2000, 11.2 million pounds were landed compared to 1999's 12.3 million pounds. The ex-vessel value of the landings was up slightly to \$23.6 million, a 3 percent increase from 1998's \$22.9 million value. From the fishery's seasonal perspective, the crab season running from December, 1999 through August, 2000 was one of the best on record, with landings of 15.7 million pounds and a record value of \$31.4 million.

#### Tuna

Landings of tuna (mostly Albacore) rebounded in 2000 to nearly 8.8 million pounds compared to the 4.6 million pounds landed in 1999. The value of 2000 tuna landings also increased to \$6.9 million, an 80 percent increase compared to the relatively low value of \$3.8 million received by harvesters in 1999.

#### Other Species

Landings of other species increased dramatically in 2000 to 23.3 million pounds compared to 3.0 million pounds landed in 1999. Harvest value also increased to \$3.4 million versus the \$1.3 million received for other species in 1999. The main source of the improvement was the remarkable resurgence of the sardine fishery off the North coast. Sardine landings amounted to 21.0 million pounds of the other species total, and had a value of nearly \$1.2 million. Sea urchin landings and values also increased in 2000.

#### Oysters

Oyster production made a significant increase in value for 2000 to \$1.4 million, an increase of 40 percent over 1999. Gallons harvested were also up by 40 percent to 41,135 gallons. This was the highest number of gallons harvested since 1989. Yaquina Bay showed the largest increase in production.

#### Trout

The value of commercial trout production for 2000 was nearly \$1.4 million. This is the highest value reported in the last five years.